

THE

Dist a.7

securities;

5

~~securities.~~

the 30 stocks that make up the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

the sum of said collected dividend yields and said collected buyback ratios.

buyback ratios.

predetermined number of said ranked securities.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said predetermined number is 10 or less.

14. A computer-readable medium bearing a computer program containing instruction steps such that upon installation of said computer program in a general purpose computer, the computer is capable of performing the method of claim 1.

[illegible]

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15. Apparatus for selecting securities from a group of available securities having dividend yields and buyback ratios for an investment portfolio comprising:

a memory storing the dividend yields and buyback ratios of said group of available securities;

5 a processor programmed to rank at least some of the available securities according to predetermined criteria comprising a predetermined relationship between said collected dividend yields and said collected buyback ratios to generate a group of ranked securities; and

10 an output unit indicating in human readable form at least said ranked securities.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said group of available securities comprises the 30 stocks that make up the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

17. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said predetermined relationship comprises the sum of said collected dividend yields and said collected buyback ratios.

PMK a17 18. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said predetermined criteria consist only of said predetermined relationship between said collected dividend yields and said collected buyback ratios.

19. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said processor selects a predetermined number of said ranked securities.

20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said predetermined number is 10 or less.